

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“ ”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“ ”) being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:
a client-side group email folder accessible by each user in a predefined group of users;
and
a group email message in the client-side group email folder, folder that is provided by an email application, the group email message having indicators, each indicator corresponding to a user in the predefined group of users, each indicator being configured to indicate whether the corresponding user has acted upon the group email message, message; and
an instant messaging application that is linked with the email application, the instant messaging application being associated with a common account as the email application, wherein the system is configured to provide an interface that includes a single option to determine presence data for both the email application and the instant messaging application,
wherein the group email message is stored in a common database such that the users in the predefined group of users have access to the group email message via the database,
wherein the communication system is configured to provide an email interface for providing the group email message and an option to view at least one user-specific email, the user-specific email being different than the group email message.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each indicator comprises a first setting, the first setting indicating that the group email message has not been acted upon by the corresponding user.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein each indicator further comprises a second setting, the second setting indicating that the group email message has been acted upon by the corresponding user.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each indicator is further indicative of whether the corresponding user has selected the group email message.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each indicator is further indicative of whether the corresponding user has opened the group email message.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a second indicator indicative of whether the corresponding user has deleted the group email message.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for indicating whether a user has deleted the group email message.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the indicator is an extensible markup language (XML) tag corresponding to a user in the predefined group.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each user represents a unique individual.

10. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising:

providing indicators in a group email message, the group email message being provided to a predefined group of users, each indicator corresponding to one of the users in the predefined group of users, each indicator having a setting, each indicator configured to indicate whether the corresponding user has acted upon the group email message;

changing the setting of one indicator in response to the email message being acted upon by its corresponding user; and

providing an email providing, by an email application, an interface for providing the group email message and an option to view at least one user-specific email, the user-specific email being different than the group email message, the interface including an instant messaging interface for a common account as the email application, wherein providing an interface includes providing a single option to determine presence data for both the email application and the instant messaging application,

wherein the group email message is stored in a common database such that the users in the predefined group of users have access to the group email message via the database.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein providing indicators comprises providing read indicators, each read indicator corresponding to one user in a predefined group of users, each read indicator being configured to indicate whether its corresponding user has read the email message.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein providing indicators comprises providing delete indicators, each delete indicator corresponding to one user in a predefined group of users, each delete indicator being configured to indicate whether its corresponding user has deleted the email message.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~tangible computer readable~~ computer-readable storage medium that includes a computer program that, when executed by a computer, performs at least the following:

providing indicators in a group email message, the group email message being provided to a predefined group of users, each indicator corresponding to one of the users in the predefined group of users, each indicator having a setting, each indicator configured to indicate whether the corresponding user has acted upon the group email message;

changing the setting of one indicator in response to the email message being acted upon by its corresponding user; and

~~providing an email providing, by an email application, an interface for providing the group email message and an option to view at least one user-specific email, the user-specific email being different than the group email message, the interface including an instant messaging interface for a common account as the email application, wherein providing an interface includes providing a single option to determine presence data for both the email application and the instant messaging application,~~

wherein the group email message is stored in a common database such that the users in the predefined group of users have access to the group email message via the database.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein providing indicators comprises providing read indicators, each read indicator corresponding to one user in a predefined group of users, each read indicator being configured to indicate whether its corresponding user has read the email message.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein providing indicators comprises providing delete indicators, each delete indicator corresponding to one user in a predefined group of users, each delete indicator being configured to indicate whether its corresponding user has deleted the email message.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein each indicator is indicative of whether the corresponding user has selected the group email message.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein each indicator is further indicative of whether the corresponding user has opened the group email message.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, further comprising a delete indicator indicative of whether the corresponding user has deleted the group email message.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein each indicator is an extensible markup language (XML) tag corresponding to a user in the predefined group.

20. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the email message includes a separate delete indicator for each member of the group, each delete indicator indicating whether the corresponding member of the group has deleted the corresponding group email message.